

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

August 2, 2020

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

"A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ."

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

(L) Let us come away for awhile and worship God our Creator
in the midst of the beauty of creation.

**(P) Restore our souls with the sound of the birds and
let us feel God's spirit of new life in the gentle breeze of the morning.**

(L) Startle us with the power of your Holy Spirit.

(P) We give praise for God's goodness.

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING SONG

The Steadfast Love of the Lord

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.

His mercies never come to an end.

They are new every morning, new every morning,

Great is Thy faithfulness, O Lord,

Great is Thy faithfulness.

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God who cares for us more than we can imagine,
we pause to confess our wrong doings.**

We have wrestled all night with worry instead of resting in you.

We withhold our love, hoard our belongings, and give up hope.

We are not honest with you and with each other.

In the quietness of our worship,

remind us again of your constant love for each one of us,

the weak, the strong, the poor, the rich, the young, the old,

the republican, the democrat, the black, the white.

Remind us of your call to share your love with one another.

We pray in the name of Jesus. AMEN.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ACT OF PRAISE #63

Give to our God immortal praise; Mercy and truth are all his ways.

Wonders of grace to God belong; repeat his mercies in your song.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Diann Bittenbender

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

Genesis 32: 22-31

22 The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. **23** He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. **24** Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. **25** When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. **26** Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." **27** So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." **28** Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." **29** Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. **30** So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." **31** The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

Psalms 17: 1-7, 15 (Read Responsively)

1 Hear a just cause, O Lord; attend to my cry; give ear to my prayer
from lips free of deceit.

2 From you let my vindication come; let your eyes see the right.

3 If you try my heart, if you visit me by night, if you test me,
you will find no wickedness in me; my mouth does not transgress.

4 As for what others do, by the word of your lips

I have avoided the ways of the violent.

5 My steps have held fast to your paths; my feet have not slipped.

**6 I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me,
hear my words.**

7 Wondrously show your steadfast love, O savior of those who seek
refuge from their adversaries at your right hand.

**15 As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake I shall
be satisfied, beholding your likeness.**

THE MESSAGE

“A Night of Wrestling”

The Rev. Suzanne Brooks-Cope

HYMN

Sweet Hour of Prayer

*Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! That calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father's throne make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief
And oft escaped the tempter's snare by Thy return, sweet hour of prayer!*

*Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! Thy wings shall my petition bear
To Him whose truth and faithfulness engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since He bids me seek His face, believe His Word and trust His grace,
I'll cast on Him my every care, And wait for Thee, sweet hour of prayer!*

I'll cast on Him my every care, And wait for Thee, sweet hour of prayer!

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

In life and death we belong to God. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. AMEN.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you... **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts... **We will lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God...**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...we join in giving you praise:

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

...we live in him and declare:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

HYMN

The Strong Name of Jesus

*There is only one Lord that we cling to; There is only one truth that we claim.
There is only one way that we walk in; There is only power in one name. (Refrain)*

Refrain:

*And in the strong name of Jesus, By the blood of the Lamb,
We are able to triumph; We are able to stand, In the power of His Spirit,
By the strength of His hand, In the strong name of Jesus,
By the precious blood of the Lamb.*

Though apart from Him, we can do nothing.

By His Spirit, we can all things covered by His blood, we are made righteous.

Lifting up the name Christ the King; (Refrain)

CHARGE AND BLESSING

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

*Go now in peace; never be afraid, God will go with you each hour of every day. Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true. Know He will guide you in all you do. Go now in love, and show you believe, reach out to others, so all the world can see. God will be there, watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith and in love.
Amen, Amen, Amen.*

POSTLUDE

(When you leave, please practice social distancing.)



St. Matthew's United Church of Christ

Worship, 9 am Sundays in the Grove; 105.5 FM

102 Church Rd, Kunkletown, PA 18058

610-381-2442, stmatts@ptd.net

Pastor: The Rev. Suzanne Brooks-Cope sbcstmmts@ptd.net

Music Director: Mr. Daniel Smale

Coordinator of Spiritual Formation: Mrs. Staci Gower

Office Manager: Mrs. Rose Arace

Council President: Mr. George Huber

www.stmattsucckunkletown.com

A Faithful Family reaching out to serve Christ.

AUGUST

The Lord invites all people, “Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters” (Isaiah 55:1, NRSV). So, we gather to quench our spiritual thirst with the Living Water. Welcome.

This Week Ahead

Sunday, August 2	Worship in the Grove	-Grove, 9 am
	Holy Communion Sunday—please have your own elements ready	
Monday, August 3	Exercise Group	-Office Open 9am–1 pm
	Matthew Bible Study	-Gathering Room, 1 pm
		-Stage Classroom, 6 pm
		Or Zoom
Wednesday, August 5	Exercise Group	-Office Open 9am-1pm
Friday, August 7		-Gathering Room, 1 pm
		-Office Open 9am-1pm

Prayer Concerns

Dale Meixsell, Lynn Borger, Loretta Hawk, George Keller, Ann Heffner, Sandy Smith, Sherwood Smith, Gladys Lindenmoyer, Alton and Lila Kleintop, Erica Pozza, Bobbie Christman, Scott Madden, Doug Hawk, Bruce Devoncourt, Amanda Mitchell (Joan Madden’s niece), Lee Sitler, Marlene Prutzman, Janet Fowler, Carol Popay, Donna Smith, Shirley Smith, Chapman and Mason Buskirk, Jan Burger, Dean Zacharis, Brayden Wunder, Kelly George, Alan Miller, Kim Cope, Margaret Hahn, Josh and Kevin Engler, Mae Borger, Marlette Palermo and the Family of Linda Lindenmoyer

Today’s Ushers:

Darryl, Shirley, Cheryl, George, and Renee

Next Week’s Ushers:

Norman Burger and Stephen Christiansen



When we worship in the Grove, we ask that all worshipers follow best practices for the safety of our members and visitors. *Best Practices will include—wear a mask while finding your seat and returning to your car and also while singing— keep 6 feet apart from others at all times—no congregating in groups—no hugging or shaking of hands—no playing on the playground. Other practices may be added. Any who are uncomfortable joining us, we encourage you worship in your car at 105.5 FM or to continue sheltering at home and worship with us digitally on your smart phone and computer. The bathrooms are cleaned and open.*

Today is Communion Sunday. If you did not bring your own elements, ushers have prepackaged elements for you. Please eat when the pastor eats and drink when the pastor drinks.

PVEN is planning on having a Back to School Extravaganza on August 18th. They will be handing out backpacks filled with school supplies and also give out new school uniforms to the children. They need new socks, underwear, black or white shoes, school uniforms, backpacks, and school supplies. If you would like to help a child get ready for school, your donations may be dropped off at the church during office hours or at PVEN on Monday mornings. Thank you for your donations. (They have plenty of pencils—and don’t need any more.)

Are you or is your child or grandchild interested in confirmation class this coming school year? Pastor Suzanne would like to hear from you. Please email her at bcstmts@ptd.net or call her at the church office 610-381-2442 or on her cell 904-910-3034 if you or your child is interested. She would like to talk to parents about our options for this fall taking COVID19 into consideration.



Kay Frable collects our Weis and Shoprite receipts, tallies them up and turns them into receive a donation for PVEN. Please continue to save your receipts. You may drop them in her mailbox any afternoon or drop them by the church office.



The Evening Bible Study focusing on Matthew meets every Monday night by zoom or in person. If you are interested in joining, speak to Pastor Suzanne.

The 300 Club has been cancelled this year due to COVID19. Hopefully, things will be back to normal next year.